Lanterns, 51 Television systems, 98 Water Pumping systems and 3 small village level Power Plants of an aggregate SPV capacity of 14 kwp. Under Solar Thermal Energy Programme in Gujarat 35,096 Solar Cookers, 64040 sq. m. collector area under Solar Water Heating systems, 5594 sq.m. Solar Desalination Systems, 12 Solar Air Heating systems and 18 Solar Timber Kilns have been installed.

(b) and (c) A central subsidy of 50% of the ex-works cost of Solar Photovoltaic Systems for lighting and village level small power plants is being provided to special category States/UTs, Islands, hill regions, etc. and certain categories of beneficiaries all over the country under the socially oriented scheme. The subsidy for Solar Lanterns is fixed at Rs. 2,000/ each. A package of subsidy and soft-loan is being made available for the purchase of SPV Water Pumping Systems. In addition some State Governments, including Govt. of Gujarat, also provide additional subsidy to the beneficiaries for Solar Energy Devices.

Soft-loans are also being made available to beneficiaries for purchase of Solar photovoltaic devices/systems through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Ltd. through various Market Oriented Schemes.

In addition to the above incentives for users, fiscal and financial incentives such as concessional custom duties on solar cells, photovoltaic modules and systems, concessional excise duty, 100% depreciation and soft loan facilities are also being made available to manufacturers of solar photovoltaic devices and systems.

Under Solar Thermal Programme soft loans are being provided for promoting low grade solar thermal systems including Solar Water Heaters through IREDA. Nominal subsidy for Solar Air Heater and Solar Desalination System and support through grants in aid to State Nodal Agencies and manufacturers are being provided for popularisation publicity, testing sales and service of solar cookers.

Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation

7345. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Multinational companies *viz.* ANOCO and ENRON Solar Power Development Companies are to start solar photovoltaic electricity generation projects in the Thar desert area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) An initial proposal has been received from M/s Amoco/Enron Solar Power Development, a company in U.S.A. for setting up in a phased manner a MW power plant based on solar photovoltaic technology, on Build-Own-Operate basis. In the first phase, a 150 MW capacity has been proposed. The Project is proposed to be set up in the Thar desert in Rajasthan. The company has held initial discussions with the Rajasthan State Government, Rajasthan State Electricity Board and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. A decision in this matter will be taken by the State Government after examination of the detailed proposal from the company.

Review of Non-Conventional Energy Centres in Rajasthan

7346. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any review of pending/on-going non-conventional energy centres in Rajasthan during the last two years;